



LINCOLN REPORT

Report underscores the need for quality afterschool programs for Arkansas youth, opportunity to train future workforce

A new report from the office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln shows that more than 200,000 children in Arkansas spend their after school hours without the supervision of an adult. Many are cared for by a brother or sister, and many are left to care for themselves.

Of the approximately 343,000 school children in Arkansas with all parents in their household in the labor force, only 60,000 (or 17 percent) are in afterschool programs. At the same time, 44 percent of Arkansas parents say they would enroll their children in an afterschool program if one was more available.

The time between 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm brings the highest levels of juvenile crime. That time also represents a frequently missed opportunity to provide students with the skills they need to achieve their educational goals and succeed in an increasingly competitive job market.

Arkansas's median family income is approximately \$38,000, well below the national average of \$51,000. These figures are directly attributable to the reality that only 16.7 percent of Arkansans over the age of 25 have a college degree. The nationwide average is 24.4 percent. The U.S. Census Bureau ranks Arkansas in the bottom two states in both of these categories. Afterschool programs can have a direct, positive impact on the financial stability of Arkansas's families and the state's overall competitiveness, as these programs can serve as important tools for preparing our state's youth for college and the workforce.

Total State

	Children K-12 With All Parents in the Labor Force	Children K-12 In Afterschool Programs	Children K-12 Caring for Self or in Care of Sibling	Median Family Income	Unemployment Rate Percentage of Population	Percentage College Grads Age 25+
Arkansas	34,3228	60,092	210,031	\$38,239	7.1	16.7

Central Arkansas

In Central Arkansas, approximately 73,607 children live in households in which all parents are in the labor force. In the after school hours, approximately 47,291 of these children care for themselves or are in the care of a sibling.

County	Children K-12 With All Parents in the Labor Force	Children K-12 In Afterschool Programs	Children K-12 Caring for Self or in Care of Sibling	Median Income	Unemployment Rate	Percentage College Grads Age 25+
Faulkner	11,328	2,230	7,435	\$45,370	6.1	25.2
Garland	8,790	1,812	6,043	\$36,299	6.4	18.0
Pulaski	42,056	8,094	26,978	\$44,909	6.1	28.1
Saline	11,433	2,051	6,835	\$50,849	5.9	16.4

Southeast Arkansas

In Southeast Arkansas, approximately 75,168 children live in households in which all parents are in the labor force. In the after school hours, nearly 25,000 of these children care for themselves or are in the care of a sibling.

County	Children K-12 With All Parents in the Labor Force	Children K-12 In Afterschool Programs	Children K-12 Caring for Self or in Care of Sibling	Median Income	Unemployment Rate Percentage of Population	Percentage College Grads Age 25+
Arkansas	2,080	390	1,300	\$37,344	14.8	12.2
Ashley	2,273	478	1,592	\$35,263	9.3	10.1
Bradley	42,056	1,066	3,552	\$30,150	8.5	11.9
Chicot	1,175	247	825	\$24,921	9.9	11.7
Cleveland	948	178	593	\$37,648	5.9	10.0
Desha	1,382	291	970	\$28,119	9.9	6.5
Drew	2,007	385	1,284	\$33,816	9.6	17.3
Jefferson	9,003	1,627	5,423	\$36,293	9.6	15.7
Lee	971	204	681	\$24,195	8.0	7.3
Lincoln	1,168	214	713	\$30,926	8.5	7.6
Lonoke	7,451	1,472	4,906	\$47,810	5.2	14.6
Monroe	811	171	569	\$27,141	7.2	8.4
Phillips	3,080	532	1,774	\$26,261	9.1	12.4
Prairie	763	161	669	\$34,975	6.3	9.0

Southwest Arkansas

In Southwest Arkansas, approximately 35,715 children live in households in which all parents are in the labor force. In the after school hours, approximately 23,360 of these children care for themselves or are in the care of a sibling.

County	Children K-12 With All Parents in the Labor Force	Children K-12 In Afterschool Programs	Children K-12 Caring for Self or in Care of Sibling	Median Income	Unemployment Rate Percentage of Population	Percentage College Grads Age 25+
Calhoun	551	96	322	\$34,847	6.2	7.3
Clark	2,001	419	1,395	\$33,887	6.6	19.8
Columbia	2,480	464	1,545	\$36,981	8.5	16.8
Dallas	954	167	557	\$31,657	7.6	9.6
Grant	2,060	361	1,203	\$46,977	5.9	11.0
Hempstead	2,383	500	1,667	\$33,686	7.9	11.0
Hot Spring	3,543	632	2,106	\$37,704	7.6	11.2
Howard	1,744	306	1,018	\$32,979	7.0	11.6
Lafayette	794	149	496	\$28,727	8.7	9.5
Little River	1,361	255	850	\$33,342	5.7	9.9
Miller	4,321	960	3,199	\$37,106	4.4	12.5
Montgomery	930	170	568	\$34,925	5.8	8.8
Nevada	978	179	597	\$32,306	8.1	10.7
Ouachita	2,448	501	1,670	\$33,418	7.6	12.7
Pike	865	158	528	\$33,892	6.1	10.1
Polk	2,102	416	1,386	\$30,935	7.7	10.9
Sevier	1,930	406	1,354	\$33,281	5.3	9.2
Union	4,270	870	2,899	\$37,120	9.7	14.9

Northeast Arkansas

In Northeast Arkansas, over 60,000 children live in households in which all parents are in the labor force. In the after school hours, approximately 40,689 of these children care for themselves or are in the care of a sibling.

County	Children K-12 With All Parents in the Labor Force	Children K-12 In Afterschool Programs	Children K-12 Caring for Self or in Care of Sibling	Median Income	Unemployment Rate Percentage of Population	Percentage College Grads Age 25+
Clay	1,826	302	1,008	\$29,131	10.5	7.4
Cleburne	2,026	454	1,514	\$37,277	6.0	13.9
Craighead	9,885	1,934	6,448	\$39,808	6.1	20.9
Crittenden	7,126	1,349	4,498	\$35,894	10.2	12.8
Cross	2,280	399	1,331	\$33,176	7.2	9.9
Fulton	1,209	212	706	\$30,261	6.3	10.5
Greene	4,462	874	2,913	\$37,724	8.4	10.9
Independence	3,247	699	2,231	\$36,984	8.2	13.7

Izard	1,177	226	753	\$31,231	7.9	11.7
Jackson	1,620	297	989	\$29,351	9.5	10.3
Lawrence	1,491	314	1,046	\$31,286	8.2	8.5
Mississippi	5,561	1,123	3,744	\$31,613	12.5	11.3
Poinsett	2,172	745	2,482	\$30,581	7.5	6.3
Randolph	2,781	534	1,780	\$32,606	7.6	10.6
St. Francis	2,626	585	1,949	\$28,318	9.7	9.6
Sharp	1,558	328	1,093	\$27,176	7.8	10.3
Stone	1,020	215	716	\$27,287	6.7	9.8
White	7,319	1,500	5,000	\$37,809	7.2	15.5
Woodruff	756	146	488	\$26,550	9.2	8.0

Northwest Arkansas

In Northwest Arkansas, approximately 98,596 children live in households in which all parents are in the labor force. In the after school hours, nearly 74,000 of these children care for themselves or are in the care of a sibling.

County	Children K-12 With All Parents in the Labor Force	Children K-12 In Afterschool Programs	Children K-12 Caring for Self or in Care of Sibling	Median Income	Unemployment Rate Percentage of Population	Percentage College Grads Age 25+
Baxter	3,268	697	2,325	\$35,845	8.0	12.8
Benton	22,577	5,075	16,918	\$49,064	5.5	20.3
Boone	4,075	730	2,434	\$36,704	6.1	12.7
Carroll	2,352	536	1,786	\$32,060	4.3	13.8
Conway	2,360	423	1,411	\$36,786	6.7	11.5
Crawford	6,326	1,354	4,512	\$37,353	6.8	9.7
Franklin	2,155	378	1,258	\$36,367	6.1	11.0
Johnson	2,603	531	1,769	\$31,586	6.4	13.1
Logan	2,554	474	1,580	\$34,261	7.9	9.4
Madison	1,584	323	10,770	\$34,877	5.5	10.1
Marion	1,281	270	899	\$31,064	10.6	10.4
Newton	729	153	512	\$28,819	6.2	10.4
Perry	1,103	212	706	\$37,491	6.1	11.1
Pope	5,601	1,194	3,980	\$38,770	6.7	19.0
Scott	1,380	242	806	\$33,884	6.2	8.4
Searcy	674	142	473	\$24,515	5.9	8.4
Sebastian	13,128	2,715	9,048	\$40,545	6.2	16.6
Van Buren	1,570	294	981	\$31,924	9.2	11.5
Washington	20,562	3,029	10,098	\$42,909	5.2	24.5
Yell	2,714	472	1,574	\$34,169	6.8	10.9